

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~cleaning a contaminated surface on~~ for manufacturing a head suspension component for a rigid disk drive, ~~the head suspension~~ including a load beam with a mounting region at a proximal end, a rigid region at a distal end and a spring region between the mounting region and the rigid region; the method comprising the steps of:

providing a ribbon having one or more spring metal head suspension components extending from the ribbon;

separating a head suspension component from the ribbon at an attachment region, including forming a contaminated surface having adhered spring metal remnants at the attachment region;

patterning a laser beam such that a single pulse extends across the entire a portion of the head suspension component including the contaminated surface; and

applying one or more pulses of the patterned laser beam having laser energy sufficient to laser clean the contaminated surface by vaporizing surface irregularities the adhered spring metal remnants on the contaminated surface.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the entire contaminated surface is laser cleaned simultaneously.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the contaminated surface comprises stainless steel.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of determining a fluence such that a single pulse just starts to vaporize surface irregularities on the contaminated surface.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of patterning the laser beam comprises the step of interposing a mask between a source of the laser beam and the contaminated surface.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the mask comprises an aperture adapted to shape the laser beam to a shape corresponding to a shape of the contaminated surface.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 comprising directing the laser beam through a lens located between the mask and the contaminated surface.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of patterning the laser beam comprises the step of interposing at least one lens between the mask and the contaminated surface.

9 – 14 (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) A head suspension made by the steps of:
forming load beam on a metal ribbon;
detaching the suspension from the ribbon;
laser cleaning an contaminated surface of the suspension by patterning a laser beam such that a single pulse extends across the entire contaminated surface, and applying one or more pulses of the laser energy sufficient to laser melt a surface of the contaminated surface.

16. (Withdrawn) A head suspension, comprising;
a load beam;
a suspension connected to the load beam
a head slider connected to the suspension; and
a lift tab connected to the head slider
wherein an contaminated surface of the load beam is laser cleaned by patterning a laser beam such that a single pulse extends across the entire contaminated surface.

17. (Withdrawn) The head suspension of claim 16, wherein the method of manufacturing leaves metallic remnants on the suspension.

18. (Withdrawn) The head suspension of claim 16, wherein the load beam was connected to a metal ribbon during forming through a tab that is subsequently severed during the manufacturing process with a portion of the tab remaining on the head suspension after severing, wherein the contaminated surface includes the remaining portion of the tab.